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SUBARU

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DEPARTMENT OF
DEFENSE INVESTIGATION

Subaru of America, Inc.
Subaru Plaza
PO Box 6000
Cherry Hill, NJ 08034-6000
856-488-8500
www.subaru.com

03V-303 ①α③

August 19, 2003
Ref. No. GA03-033C

Mr. Kenneth N. Weinstein
Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance - NSA-01
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Subaru Legacy and Outback Fuel Hose Clamp Installation
Part 573, Defect Information Report

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

In accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1966 and 49 CFR Part 573, Subaru of America, Inc. ["Subaru"] hereby submits a Defect Information Report (DIR) concerning a safety recall of certain 2004MY Subaru Legacy and Outback vehicles to address a possible fuel leakage due to a loose or out of position clamp on the fuel hose that connects the fuel filler pipe to the fuel tank.

Should you have any questions about this report, please contact me at (856) 488-8644.

Sincerely,

SUBARU OF AMERICA, INC.



Don Bearden, Director
Governmental Affairs

cc: K. DeMeter

DB:ds
Attachment

DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT**1. Vehicle Manufacturer Name:**

Fuji Heavy Industries Ltd. ("FHI")
1-7-2 Nishi-Shinjuku
Shinjuku-ku
Tokyo 160-8316, Japan

Assembly Facility:

Subaru of Indiana Automotive, Inc. ["SIA"]
5500 State Road 38 East
Lafayette, Indiana 47903

Affiliated U.S. Sales Company:

Subaru of America, Inc. ["SOA"]
Subaru Plaza
P.O. Box 6000
Cherry Hill, NJ 08034-6000

2. Identification of Affected Vehicles:

Based on vehicle production records, we have determined the affected vehicle population as follows:

Make/Model: Subaru Legacy and Outback

Model year: Certain 2004MY vehicles

Production dates: June 3, 2003 through August 8, 2003

VIN Range:

2004MY Legacy Sedan	4S3BE****4*200022 - 202780
2004MY Legacy Wagon	4S3BH****4*300035 - 301474
2004MY Outback	4S3BH****4*600083 - 610419

Note 1. Although the involved vehicles are within the above VIN ranges, not all vehicles in these ranges were sold in the U.S. nor are all vehicles within this VIN range affected.

*Note 2. Various characters may occupy the VIN positions identified by ****

3. Total Number of Vehicles Potentially Affected:

Based on SIA records, approximately 7,974 Legacy and Outback vehicles are potentially affected.

4. Percentage of Vehicles Estimated to Actually Contain Defect:

Although the percentage of vehicles likely to have a loose or out of position clamp is small, all potentially affected vehicles will be inspected and repaired, if necessary.

5. Description of Problem:

A new fuel filler hose has been used in production on all 2004MY vehicles to meet the zero evaporative emission requirements.

One worker on the assembly line was installing some of the hoses and clamps on the fuel filler pipe in a "cocked" attitude (not parallel to the end of the hose) causing the clamp to be loose. Torque on the hose clamp screw was also insufficient.

6. Chronology of Principal Events:

On August 4, 2003, SIA discovered some slight fuel leakage at the joint between the fuel filler pipe and the hose that connects the fuel filler pipe to the fuel tank on 2 vehicles on the vehicle final testing line. Additional vehicles were inspected in the QC line and the parking area. SIA stopped shipment of vehicles until all stored vehicles could be inspected and the cause of this problem could be determined.

On August 14, 2003, FBI and SIA determined that a defect that could affect vehicle safety existed due to this possible fuel leakage problem and decided to conduct a safety recall to correct this condition.

7. Description of Corrective Repair Action:

All potentially affected 2004MY vehicles that were shipped previous to the identification of this problem will be inspected and, if necessary, repaired at no cost to the owner. Many of the potentially affected vehicles are still in dealer inventory. A dealer stop sale of potentially affected vehicles has already been released so that these vehicles can be inspected and repaired before they are sold.

8. Recall Schedule

Dealers who have received any of the potentially affected vehicles have already been notified of this potential problem and the "stop-sale" of these vehicles. Notification of owners is expected to begin within approximately 10 days and be completed in 1 day. Copies of the owner letter and dealer repair procedures will be submitted as soon as they are available.

Don Bearden, Director
Governmental Affairs Dept.
Direct Dial: (856) 488-8644
Fax: (856) 488-8669
E-Mail: dbearden@subaru.com

August 26, 2003
Ref. No. GA03-034C

Mr. Kenneth N. Weinstein
Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance - NSA-01
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Subaru Legacy and Outback Fuel Hose Clamp Installation
Part 573, Revised Defect Information Report

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

There was an error in the VIN ranges of the DIR submitted to NHTSA on August 19, 2003. I have attached a revised DIR with the changes to the VIN ranges identified by bold numbers. There are no other changes to the DIR.

NHTSA has already identified this campaign as 03V-303.

Should you have any questions about this report, please contact me at (856) 488-8644.

Sincerely,

SUBARU OF AMERICA, INC.

Don Bearden, Director
Governmental Affairs

cc: K. DeMeter

DB:ds
Attachment

DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT

Revised 8/26/03

1. Vehicle Manufacturer Name:

Fuji Heavy Industries Ltd. ("FHI")
1-7-2 Nishi-Shinjuku
Shinjuku-ku
Tokyo 160-8316, Japan

Assembly Facility:

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Lafayette, Indiana 47903

Affiliated U.S. Sales Company:

Subaru of America, Inc. ["SOA"]
Subaru Plaza
P.O. Box 6000
Cherry Hill, NJ 08034-6000

2. Identification of Affected Vehicles:

Based on vehicle production records, we have determined the affected vehicle population as follows:

Make/Model: Subaru Legacy and Outback

Model year: Certain 2004MY vehicles

Production dates: June 3, 2003 through August 8, 2003

VIN Range:

2004MY Legacy Sedan	4S3BE****4*200020 - 202797	*
2004MY Legacy Wagon	4S3BH****4*300025 - 301474	*
2004MY Outback	4S3BH****4*600048 - 610420	*

Note 1. Although the involved vehicles are within the above VIN ranges, not all vehicles in these ranges were sold in the U.S. nor are all vehicles within this VIN range affected.

Note 2. Various characters may occupy the VIN positions identified by "**"

3. Total Number of Vehicles Potentially Affected:

Based on SIA records, approximately 7,874 Legacy and Outback vehicles are potentially affected.

4. Percentage of Vehicles Estimated to Actually Contain Defect:

Although the percentage of vehicles likely to have a loose or out of position clamp is small, all potentially affected vehicles will be inspected and repaired, if necessary.

5. Description of Problem:

A new fuel filler hose has been used in production on all 2004MY vehicles to meet the zero evaporative emission requirements. One worker on the assembly line was installing some of the hoses and clamps on the fuel filler pipe in a "cocked" attitude (not parallel to the end of the hose) causing the clamp to be loose. Torque on the hose clamp screw was also insufficient.

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